

shall immediately after the 10th day of August in each year contract with the person or persons who shall offer the best terms for the publication of the same.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved November 21, 1861.

AN ACT in addition to an act, entitled "An Act relating to the preservation of public documents," approved November 11, 1863.

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. The number of reports required to be furnished and bound by said act shall be one hundred, and they shall be deposited in the State Library, and a portion of them may be used by the trustees for exchanges, and the purposes of the library.

Approved, Nov. 22, 1864.

AN ACT in amendment of section one hundred and ten of chapter twenty-two of the general statutes, relating to common schools and school laws.

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. That so much of section one hundred and ten as relates to filing school registers in the town clerk's office in the month of March, shall be so amended as to read, on or before the twentieth day of March in each year.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 15, 1864.

AN ACT to amend section eighty-three of chapter twenty-two of the general statutes, entitled "Of common schools and school laws."

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. Section eighty-three of chapter twenty-two of the general statutes is hereby so amended as to provide that the public school moneys therein mentioned shall be divided in each town annually on Friday next preceding the last Tuesday of March.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 22, 1864.

AN ACT authorizing selectmen to build school houses.

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. If any school district shall omit or neglect to provide a suitable school house for next district, for the period of two years next previous to the application herein provided, on application in writing of three legal voters in such district, to the selectmen of any town in which such district is located, such selectmen shall appoint a time and place when such application shall be heard by said selectmen, and shall cause such applicants to give notice of such application and of the time and place of hearing, to each school district, by service of such notice in the manner as writs of summons, at least twenty days before such hearing.

Sec. 2. Such selectmen shall carefully investigate the matter, set forth in such application, and if in their opinion, such district is guilty of negligence in the premises, and the interests of education in such schools district so require, such selectmen shall order such district to build a school house, which order shall be served on such district in the same manner as ordinary process in civil cases.

Sec. 3. If any school district shall neglect for the period of six months after the service of such order to direct by vote of a legal school meeting of said district a school house to be in compliance with such order, and shall for the same period of the time after the service of such order omit to raise money for the purpose of building such school house, the selectmen of such town making such order shall be, and they are hereby empowered, to assess a tax upon the grand list of such school district for an amount necessary to build such school house; and make a rate bill therefor, and proceed in the collection thereof in the same manner as is provided by law for the collection of town taxes, and said tax shall be collected by the first constable of such town, and paid over to such selectmen, and by them appropriated in building such school house.

Sec. 4. All proceedings under this act shall be recorded in the town clerk's office of any town in which such district is located, and copies of such record certified by the clerk of such town shall be legal evidence thereof.

Approved, Nov. 21, 1864.

AN ACT to repeal a part of section fifty, chapter twenty-two, of the general statutes, and to amend the remainder.

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. So much of section fifty, chapter twenty-two of the general statutes, as relates to the apportioning the expense of fuel and teachers' board upon the scholars attending the school, or assessing a tax upon the same, is hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. The remainder of section fifty, chapter twenty-two, shall be so amended as to read as follows:

All expenses incurred by school districts for the support of schools, shall be defrayed by a tax upon the grand list of said district.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect on the last Tuesday of March, A. D. 1865.

Approved, Nov. 15, 1864.

AN ACT to amend section twenty of chapter twenty-two of the general statutes, relating to school districts.

It is hereby enacted, &c.

Sec. 1. Whenever any individual or individuals, being legal voters in any town, shall desire the alteration of any school districts in which they live in such town, application may be made to such town, at any legal meeting thereof, by petition in writing signed by the individuals desiring such alteration, and such petition shall set forth and contain a general description or statement of the proposed alteration.

Sec. 2. Upon such application being made as is named in section one, the town shall appoint a committee of three disinterested voters in such

town, neither of whom shall be resident of any school district which may be affected by the proposed alteration, whose duty it shall be to examine into the situation and circumstances of the district or districts, proposed to be altered, or which may be affected by the alteration contemplated, and to report into the convenience and necessity of such alteration and any facts and circumstances tending to elucidate the subject.

Sec. 3. Said committee shall appoint a time and place of examination and hearing, and shall give notice thereof to one of the officers of each district which may be affected by such alteration, and also to the owner or occupant of any land, or premises which the petition proposes to set off from one district to another.

Sec. 4. The committee shall make report of their doings to the annual March meeting next succeeding the time of their appointment, and shall state whether in their opinion any of the proposed alterations ought to be made and if any, what alterations, describing them.

Sec. 5. On return of said report the town shall consider the same and may make and establish any alterations recommended in such report, or may refuse to make any alteration, according as, in the judgment of the town, may appear expedient.

Sec. 6. The petitioners shall pay said committee for their services at the rate of one dollar per day each, and necessary expenses which may be recovered by an action on book account.

Sec. 7. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 8. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved, Nov. 18, 1864.

THE TRANSCRIPT.

ST. ALBANS.

Friday, Dec. 23, 1864.

To our Subscribers.

We have already announced that the terms of subscription of the Vermont Transcript will be increased on the first day of Jan. 1865, to \$2.00 a year, payable in advance and \$2.50 when payment is delayed six months.

Although this is one dollar less than the price charged by the other paper printed in this county, still the increase is one which we have delayed to make as long as possible, with the vain hope that prices of materials etc. might recede, or at least remain stationary.

This increase will not, of course, affect unfilled contracts but applies to future business. To all who wish to pay in advance, the old price will govern until New Year's Day.

The marked commendations which we are receiving as to the course of the paper and quality of its matter, encourage us in the belief that this increase—slight to each individual, but in its aggregate important, to the publisher,—will be most cheerfully met.

The Transcript has recently added to its facilities for doing the best kinds of printing, and persons in need of superior typographical work, need no longer go abroad for the supply of their wants.

The annual meeting of the Vermont State Temperance Society was held at Windsor, Wednesday, Dec. 21st, 1865.

The annual address was pronounced on Wednesday evening, and the several railroads of the State gave free return tickets for fare one way.

It is time that this matter of the growing intemperance which prevails throughout this State, should attract attention and alarm.

Thoughtful and observant people have perceived, with extreme regret, the strides which intemperance has taken within the past ten years.

The war has undoubtedly been prejudicial to the cause of sobriety and rum, gaming and profanity have increased to a fearful extent since the blast of war first blew in our ears. So far as our immediate vicinity is concerned, it is not pleasant to think of or write about. The truth, however, is that our morals in this regard are at the lowest ebb.

Drunkennes, gambling and profanity are said to be upon the increase and to have gained a firm foothold in our midst. The prospective increase of taxes, the amount of physical suffering which intemperance will bring in its train during this winter may well excite our fears and wonderment.

There is untold suffering already in our vicinity, whose particulars can be gathered from any overseer of the poor. The high prices of food, raiment and fuel must fall heavily upon the needy and especially upon those who are drunken besides being in poverty.

The family of the drunkard is destined to suffer for his criminal indulgence and innocent childhood often undergoes fearful and heart-rending distress in consequence of gross intemperance.

We have the authority of the overseer of the poor of St. Albans, for the fact that there are over one hundred places in St. Albans village where intoxicating liquors are sold in violation of law. If this seems overstated or untrue, let any one with surprise, who has

not investigated the question, his wonder can be quickly lessened by learning the names and streets where from the warm brilliantly lighted bar-rooms of the taverns down to the coldest, darkest and filthiest hovel, this liquid death is sold indiscriminately to all having money.

Popular indifference to this deplorable state of morals is one of the considerations that aggravates the evil. These things openly exist in our midst—seen by their effects every hour in the day, and excite little or no attention from the authorities, who are the sworn conservators of the peace and dignity of the State. The selectmen of the town, the trustees of the village, the town grand jurors, the policemen, and the State's attorney for the county must see the evil which surrounds us, and yet not a complaint, not a murmur, not a note of warning. All with them is as calm as a summer's morning!

All with them is as calm as a summer's morning! And so society becomes demoralized, gradually but surely; and drunkenness and its attendant evils run riot at noonday and staggers boldly in the watches of the night.

We make no apology for alluding to these matters. Our duty is to sound the alarm. The public morals are suffering for want of proper official attention. We trust that a ventilation of the subject and of our present condition, will tend to make our people think and act in a manner calculated to stop the fearful evil which so grievously torments and demoralizes society.

"The Vermont Justice."

Some little time since, we took occasion to apprise our readers, that a book, bearing the above title, was in the course of publication, and we felt assured it would be made a work, highly useful to magistrates, to the members of the law and the business men generally. Since its publication, we have obtained a copy of the work, and we can assure our readers, that our anticipations in regard to it have been fully realized.

The people of the State have long felt a prevailing want of a book of a like description, and we can but rejoice that in the publication of this book by Judge Bennett, their necessities have been supplied.

In the examination of this work we find an alphabetical index, which has evidently been prepared with great care, and which furnishes a ready guide to its contents, and which greatly enhances the value of the work for all practical purposes. We can not better express our general views of the intelligent character of the work, than by copying the following extract, from a notice of the work published in the Woodstock Standard, supposed to be from the pen of Judge Barrett:

"Fullness and precision with which the scope of a Justice's jurisdiction and duties is treated," says Judge Barrett: "the clear statement of common law principles and rules, and statutory provisions, involved in the discharge of those duties,—the summary of the law and rules of pleading and evidence,—the great number and variety of forms for the various things requisite or proper to be done, not only by justices, but by lawyers and business men, render it eminently serviceable to justices, to lawyers—and particularly to young practitioners, to sheriffs, constables, overseers of the poor, selectmen, town agents, and to intelligent business men in various avocations. One prominent feature of its usefulness consists in the completeness of the forms for almost every variety of proceeding under our statutes, accompanied with notes and instructions showing the proper use to be made of them in cases of doubt or obscurity. Beyond official proceedings are many valuable forms for instruments of contract, and the disposition of property, including leases, surrenders, marriage settlements, agreements of separation, wills and codicils."

We understand the work is in process of binding, and will doubtless soon be for sale in the different counties of the State; and it is to be hoped, that so valuable a work, and one so much needed, will meet with a ready sale.

Correspondence of the Transcript.

Letter from Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 21, 1864.

The main facts in regard to the St. Albans Raid, which have disturbed the peace dignity and of the inhabitants of this island of Montreal were briefly chronicled in my letter to you last week. You have seen the comments of the local and foreign press. But you could hardly appreciate the intense feeling among our business men which the conduct of Judge Cousens and chief of Police Lamothe his fellow conspirator has awakened.

It is generally believed that for some "valuable consideration" there was a secret understanding between Cousens, Lamothe, Sanders and the robbers what should be done on the 18th of December, the day to which

the examination had been postponed. The part Judge Cousens was to play in the farce he did play according to Hoyle. He rendered his absurd decision in favor of the release of all the robbers without allowing any delay for Vermont barristers to be present, and without allowing time for the issue of new warrants for their apprehension. The chief of police also played his part to a charm, giving up to thieves in indiscreet haste and without any order of the court, the \$90,000 plunder which the robbers obtained at your banks. The robbers, knowing in advance what the programme was, appeared in court with their overcoats, shawls and other preparations for travel, and duly prepared for suddenly vanishing the Montreal ranch.

The testimony, before the city council, of Porterfield, the watch agent, shows that he was in the court house at the time the judge rendered his decision, and before the judge left the bench or the robbers had put on their top-coats and mufflers. Lamothe, chief of police handed him an order to get the money. Jumping into a sleigh which he had at the court house door, he drove rapidly to the bank and got the booty.

The amount of money which was paid to the Honorable C. J. Cousens and the amount paid or agreed to be paid to Chief Lamothe in reward for their treachery to the Provincial government whose sworn officers they were, has not yet been ascertained. The indignation felt towards the "Rebellers in the confederate service" as the robbers called themselves, robbers and murderers as they were, fades into moderation when compared with the indignation which the names of Cousens, Lamothe and their aiders and abettors are held by all fair minded Anglo and Franco-Canadians.

These individuals may resign their office and venture into "private life" so-called, but the "dignito-monstrum" will haunt them day and night, until the coin, for which they bartered their honor, is put upon their eyelids.

This disgraceful caricature of judicial proceedings has been a source of great mortification to our leading citizens which the conduct of Judge Cousens, Lamothe and their associate before the city council since has not abated.

Our mercantile community are well aware that trouble with Brother Jonathan would work financial ruin.

Now, Mr. Transcript, please pardon me for remarking that although it is your duty to look out for further raids and your duty to take all needed precautionary steps to prevent a repetition of attacks, and especially to look out carefully for the black valise and phosphorus villans—still you would do well to bear in mind that it was a part and parcel of the plot of these robbers to embroil the United States in a controversy with Her Majesty's North American Provinces, and the government of Great Britain.

These scamps, or rather those who egged them on in their villany, foresaw that some collision might take place, and, if so, would help the rebellion more than a victory on the battlefield. There can be no doubt that the Hon. Charles Sumner has hit the nail on the head by his remarks in your Senate last Monday when he designated the affair as "a trap in which to catch the United States Government."

Please ponder on this idea.

The partial revocation of Gen. Dix's orders is well received here. The course of the Canadian government indicates that it is not in complicity with Saunders, Cousens, Lamothe, Lafontaine and company—and, therefore, the remodelling of the order by direction of President Lincoln was expedient and politic. It so strikes one at this present writing.

The inauguration of the passport system whose observance Mr. Secretary Seward says will be "strictly enforced" will be great annoyance to our people whose business attracts them to the States. However great the annoyance may be and however troublesome the obtaining of passports may prove, it can hardly surprise any reflecting Briton that the course of Secretary Seward is justifiable in view of the conduct of the English at home and the Franco and Anglo-Canadian here.

I have more to say but have no time this week in which to say it before your paper goes to press. I have barely space to add that our Parliament meets at Quebec, January 19, 1865 "for dispatch of business."

With much regard, yours truly,

QUI VIVE.

Rev. Dr. Porter, of long Island, has removed to Brattleboro' and officiates in St. Michael's Church, which has been without a pastor for several months.

Rev. Mr. Carpenter, of the Baptist Church, Brattleboro' has resigned his pastorate and removes soon to Topham.

Richard G. Cole, Esq., Cashier of the Bank of Burlington, having succeeded thirty-two years ago the late Andrew Thompson, Esq., of Keeseville, New York, as cashier, died at Burlington December 18, 1864, in the 70th year of his age. Those two gentlemen have been the only cashiers of the Bank of Burlington since its organization. Both were highly intelligent Christian gentlemen, both prominent and devoted Episcopalians and both dispensed with rare grace the delightful rites of hospitality. They were both valued citizens, upright courteous gentlemen, and accomplished financiers, conspicuous for ability and integrity.

The funeral of Mr. Cole was held at St. Paul's Church, Burlington, December 21, and was largely attended.

Hon. Charles A. Huntington, a native of Vergennes, formerly of St. Albans and more recently of Rockford, Illinois, has been lately appointed Secretary of Indian Affairs in Washington Territory. He sails for his new home from New York city December 23d and will reside at Olympia, Washington Territory. Mr. Huntington is a brother of Alfred H. Huntington, Esq., of St. Albans, and is a man of energy who will ably and acceptably discharge the duties of this responsible position to which he has been appointed.

The death of Col. Charles Cummings, late editor and proprietor of the Vermont Phoenix, published at Brattleboro' having brought that establishment into market, it has been purchased by the Rev. Addison Brown and Mr. Charles S. Prouty.

Mr. Prouty has been its publisher for several years, and since Col. Cummings entered the army the editorial management of the paper has been assumed by Mr. Brown, whose talents, taste and tact fit him for the thorough and acceptable discharge of the onerous duties of editor. There is no more welcome paper among our exchanges than the Phoenix.

Hon. W. L. Dayton, U. S. Minister to the Court of St. Cloud, died of apoplexy at Paris, Dec. 24. Messrs. Fessenden, Blair and Stanton are mentioned as his probable successors.

That portion of the St. Albans Raiders who went eastward have been overtaken and a reward is offered for the apprehension of the remainder.

SENATE, Dec. 12.—Mr. Doolittle proposed a resolution to inquire into the expediency of an additional tax of one per cent on sales of all property to add 35 per cent to the tax on railroads, steamboats and ferries, and to provide against further expansion of currency. Mr. Davis offered a series of Peace resolutions.

HOUSE, Dec. 12.—The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Hon. R. E. Fenton, Governor elect of New York, resigning his seat, to take effect on the 20th inst. Mr. Jenkins called up the bill to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy. He said an alteration had become necessary, and he suggested that the bill take effect on the 1st of June, 1865. This was agreed to. The bill was then passed by yeas, 75; nays, 56. Of the yeas, 61 are Unionists and 15 Democrats; of the nays, 22 are Unionists and 34 Democrats.

SENATE, Dec. 13.—Mr. Sumner reported a bill authorizing the President to transfer one of our gunboats to the Republic of Liberia, that Government to pay for it in ten annual installments. Mr. Sherman reported a bill to construct six revenue cutters for the lakes. The bill was passed. Mr. Wilson proposed a joint resolution securing freedom to the wives and children of all colored soldiers. Referred.

HOUSE, Dec. 13.—Mr. Eliot offered a resolution, declaring that the State of Louisiana may resume political relations with the General Government. The House took up Mr. Ward's resolution of last Session proposing to give Great Britain notice of an intention to repeal the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty, and to appoint Commissioners to make a new treaty, simply giving notice of our intention to terminate the agreement. In this form the joint resolution passed 85 to 31.

SENATE, Dec. 14.—Resolutions of thanks to Capt. Winslow and Lieut. Cushing were adopted. Mr. Wilson reported back the joint resolution to make free the wives and children of colored soldiers. Mr. Chandler proposed resolutions, referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee, concerning the discharge of the St. Albans raiders. The House resolution for the termination of the Reciprocity Treaty was referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

HOUSE, Dec. 14.—A bill was passed to enable any alien to become a citizen (if 21 years old) on proving one year's residence, if he has served in the army or navy and been honorably discharged. The Foreign Affairs Committee was requested to report what measures are necessary to protect from such outrages as that at St. Albans. Mr. Schenck reported a bill to drop from the army rolls all unemployed generals. It was passed, 95 to 38.

SENATE, Dec. 15.—Information was called for in regard to arrangements between the U. S. and Great Britain concerning armed vessels on

the lakes. Mr. Lane offered a resolution, which was passed, to inquire as to the truth of the alleged charges that large numbers of disloyal persons are in the employment of the Government in the navy yards, Quartermaster and Ordnance Departments, etc., of the country, to the exclusion of loyal men. The resolutions of Mr. Chandler concerning the St. Albans raid case, were sent to the Foreign Affairs Committee. Mr. Sumner having informed the Senate that if not so referred he should make a speech upon the subject. Mr. Brown proposed an inquiry into the militia laws, with a view to amendments which shall secure the enrollment of all male citizens (regardless of color) between 18 and 45. The bill to sell a gunboat to Liberia was passed nine of the strictest Copperheads voting against it. The Conduct of the War Committee were instructed to inquire into the facts concerning the unsuccessful assault on Petersburg in July last.

HOUSE, Dec. 15.—The resolutions of thanks to Capt. Winslow and Lieut. Cushing were adopted. Mr. Donnelly introduced a bill to require all persons applying for the benefit of the pre-emption and homestead laws, to make oath that they had not deserted from the army, or resisted the draft or secreted themselves to avoid being enrolled or drafted, or discouraged enlistments, and providing that, whenever such offences could be proved, the land claimed should revert to the Government. Referred. Nearly all the remainder of the session was consumed in a discussion upon our foreign policy, in which Mr. Davis severely criticized the action of Secretary Seward. Mr. Davis offered his resignation as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but the House declined to receive it. The House voted to adjourn from Dec. 22 to Jan. 5. Mr. Ashley introduced a bill to guarantee to certain States subverted or overthrown by rebellion a republican form of government.

He also gave notice that on the 6th of January next he would call up the pending joint resolution from the Senate, proposing a constitutional amendment for the abolition of Slavery throughout the country, and that he would demand a vote upon the Monday following.

Revocation of Gen. Dix's Order.

HEADQUARTERS DEP. OF THE EAST, New York City, Dec. 17, 1864. General Orders, No. 100.

The President of the United States having disapproved that portion of Department General Order No. 97, current series, which instructs all military commanders on the frontier, in certain cases therein specified, to cross the boundary line between United States and Canada, and directs parties to neutral territory, the said instruction is hereby revoked. In case therefore, of any future marauding into our territory from Canada, military commanders will report to these headquarters for orders before crossing the boundary line in pursuit of the guilty parties.

By command of Maj. Gen. Dix. (Signed) D. T. VAN BUREN, A. A. C.

The people of Toulon are making preparations to inaugurate the new city government. The day chosen will be the 225th anniversary of the incorporation of the town.

LATE WAR NEWS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Dec. 18—9 P. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix: An official dispatch from Gen. Sherman was received to-day, dated "Near midnight, Dec. 13th, on the gunboat Dandelion, Osage Bay Sound." It was written before Gen. Foster had reached him. He reports the following interesting particulars of his operations.

Gen. Hazen's division of the 15th corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and stores. This opened the Osage Bay Sound, and I pulled down to this gunboat to communicate with the fleet. Before opening communication we had destroyed all the roads leading into Savannah and invested the city.

The left is on the Savannah river, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee at Kingsbridge. The army is in splendid order and equal to anything. Our march was most agreeable, and was not at all molested by guerrillas.

We reached Savannah three days ago, but owing to Fort McAllister we could not communicate, but now we have McAllister, and can go ahead. We have already captured two boats in the Savannah river, and prevented their gunboats from coming down.

I estimate the population of Savannah at 20,000 and garrison at 15,000. Gen. Hardee commands.

We have not lost a wagon on the trip, but have gathered in a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our troops are in far better condition than when we started. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules and horses.

We have utterly destroyed over 200 miles of rails and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies.

The quick work made with McAllister and the opening of communication with our fleet, and consequent independence for supplies, dissipate all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army. I regard Savannah as already gained.

W. T. SHERMAN, Maj. Gen.

WAR DEPT. WASHINGTON, Dec. 17—10 P. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix: Dispatches have been received to-day from Gen. Foster, who had a personal interview on the morning of Wednesday the 14th inst. with Gen. Sherman at Fort McAllister, which had been taken by assault the preceding day.

Savannah was closely besieged, and

its capture with the rebel forces there was confidently expected. Its surrender was to be demanded in two days, and if not surrendered, Sherman would open his batteries upon it.

Gen. Foster reports Sherman's army in splendid condition, having lived on its march on the turkeys, chickens, meats, potatoes, and other good things of the richest part of Georgia. Nothing has been heard from Gen. Thomas to-day.

Unofficial dispatches state that the Provost Marshal at Nashville reports 5,000 prisoners and 49 pieces of artillery as being already secured. It is ascertained that in transmitting Gen. Thomas' report last night, a telegraphic mistake was made at Louisville in estimating the number of our casualties. The dispatch written by Gen. Thomas stated that his whole loss would not exceed 3,000 and that very few were killed.

A dispatch from Lexington, the morning states that on the 13th inst. at Kinsport, Tenn., Gen. Burbridge had a fight with Bazil Duke's brigade, formerly Morgan's and routed it with a loss to the enemy of one hundred and fifty killed, wounded and prisoners, and their trains. Dick Morgan, brother of John, was captured.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

WAR DEPT. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18th—9 P. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix: The following official report was received this evening from Gen. Thomas dated at his headquarters near Franklin.

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T CUMBERLAND, (near Franklin), Dec. 17.

A report just received from Maj. Gen. Wilson states that at 6 P. M. today, he attacked and dispersed Sherman's division of rebel infantry and brigade of rebel cavalry, capturing three guns. The 4th U. S. Cavalry and Hatch's division of Cavalry, both supported by Knapp's division of cavalry, did the work, making several beautiful charges, breaking rebel infantry in all directions. It is only been light the rebel rear guard would have been entirely destroyed as it is, it has been severely punished. This attack was made six miles beyond Franklin.

GEO. H. THOMAS, Maj. Gen.

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T CUMBERLAND, (near Franklin), Dec. 17—8 P. M.

We have pursued the enemy today beyond Franklin, capturing his baggage—containing over 1,500 and about 150 of our wounded in addition. The cavalry drove the enemy's rear guard through Franklin to-day, capturing 250 prisoners, 5 battle flags, with very little loss on our side. Citizens of Franklin represent Hood's army is completely demoralized. In addition to the capture of yesterday, reported in my dispatch of last night, I have honor to report the capture of Gen. Rucker and about 150 prisoners of the enemy's cavalry, in a fight that seemed about 9 o'clock last night between Gen. Rucker and Gen. Hatch of our cavalry. The enemy has been pressed to-day both in front and on both flanks. Brig. Gen. Johnson succeeded in striking him in the flank just beyond Franklin, capturing quite a number of prisoners—number not yet reported. My cavalry is pressing him closely, and I am very much in hopes of getting many more prisoners tomorrow.

Signed, GEO. H. THOMAS, Maj. Gen.

Other dispatches unofficial from Nashville state that 1,000 prisoners were captured by Wilson, and that Gen. Roseau, commanding at Murfreesboro', reports that Forrest is killed, and 1,500 of his men captured. Thomas is pushing on after Hood.